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Welcome

Welcome to our third issue of Occupy Sydney Zine!

Next big global action day is May 12, Free school & Occupy the Screen is happening at Martin Place.

So amazing to see all the great submissions every week, please keep sending in your contributions!

Call out for people to send in reviews, report backs and reflections on your experiences with Occupy.

This is *your* platform to share & show what Occupy Sydney means to you. The submissions in this zine are the opinions of individual Occupiers. All copy rights & ownership remain with these individuals.

Please feel welcome to contribute & add *your* voice & views.

It is only when we share in the commons do we bond as a community, so let us all share in the commons of the people's media & discover what we can create together.

A big thank you to Liam, Nicole, Pathi, Maloë, Nicky & Else for your articles, reports, meditations, songs, photos & images. I am so very grateful to work on this project with your talents!

Much Love & Support xx Bern

Your Submissions & Feedback

Please put "Submission" or "Feedback" in the subject heading & submit your contributions by Wednesdays to OccupySydneyZine@gmail.com so it can be ready for printing by Occupy Fridays

What I am learning from Occupy
Do whatever it
takes ... to **FREE**
your **CHILDREN**
from **Debt** - your
debt !!! Give them
FREEDOM for an
inheritance.
OCCUPY SYDNEY
OccupySydney #osyd #OccupyTogether occupysydney.org.au occupytogether

My Review of Sydney City Talks “Poverty amongst Plenty” Forum

From Lost in the Din
<http://lostinthedin.wordpress.com>
By Liam Kesteven



Photo Submitted by Liam Kesteven

Well the City Talks was pretty much what we expected, a forum set-up by Sydney City Council and despite what we were told that four speakers would each get 20 minutes each to speak including our Marc Ahrens and then there would be a general discussion and then perhaps a Q&A session from the audience. Well we got 20 minutes from Clover Moore (Mayor of Sydney) going on about her supposed green credentials and her schemes for dealing with homelessness in Sydney, these have failed despite spending millions homelessness has increased and seem to be a method to convert public money and land into private hands.

Clover Moore originally opposed a proposal by Irene Doutney and others of the Greens Party on Sydney County Council back in late 2011 to give Occupy Sydney a safe space to Occupy and this City Talk was her counter proposal, a 90 minute talk to solve the world's problems in! Also Occupy Sydney didn't get an invite to the talk until Irene got on the case and invited us to join in two weeks before hand.

Some Occupiers Mic Checked at the beginning of Clover Moore's speech (overdue) and interrupted it for a few minutes, unfortunately we underestimated the amount of people it would take to successfully Mic Check such a large space. I guess we can put it down to experience, it didn't go down with the middle class audience to well, i think they expected more of a comedy show (which it was in a way) and a bunch of feel good crap which they definitely got. The Mic Checkers were asked to leave by three burly Security Guards and the patronising

presenter tried to make light of it.

We then got a talk from Paul Gilding who made some good points but didn't go far enough in my opinion, pulled his punches in some respects and made light of other issues.

Apart from Marc, Paul & Clover on the forum we also had,

Sam Mclean, Deputy National Director, Getup!

Ben Waters, Director, Ecomagination GE
(General Electric) Australia & NZ.

Rachel Botswan, Social Innovator & Author.

Ross Gittins AM, Economics Editor, The Sydney Morning Herald.

Adam Spencer, Presenter & Facilitator.

I got the impression from some of the speakers like Rachel Botswan & Ben Waters that band-aid solutions was all we needed to do and to throw money and technology at the issues, this is without a deeper more fundamental understanding of the underlying issues and look at alternatives which put environmental and people as the primary concern than the present concern of we make our money and maintain our power/monopoly first and then whatever crumbs are left on the table we give to the 99%.

I like to use the Analogy of Capitalism as a two hundred year old Zombie like Corpse which needs constant transfusions of blood (Bailouts) from the Public to keep it barely alive meanwhile the more healthy people of the world go without the blood they need to stay alive while massive amounts are

needed to keep this Zombie Corpse of Capitalism alive. In a Michael Moore interview he makes the analogy that modern day capitalism is like an organ of a body which has become dangerously cancerous and is effecting the health of the whole body and the only way to deal with is to cut it out!

Rachel Botswan talked about these schemes in England designed to deal with the poverty there which sounded good to the casual listener but as someone who lived in England during the first 6 years of Thatcher I know what it's like to see your family struggle on a council estate and these conservatives in now are just Neo-Thatcherites completing what she started 33 years ago, the continued destruction of unions which are one of the few democratising forces left in western society, cut backs on social services which will create more poverty for those already on the edges of UK society meanwhile giving Billions to the Bankers in London's Financial District AKA "The City". Not mention the further privatisation of public services like the NHS which Thatcher tried and failed to do.

Ben Waters of GE (General Electric) was the Green Face of a huge Multi-National Corporation, designed to make us think this huge company really cares about the environment and sustainability. For those who don't know GE is a huge Military Contractor best known for making Jet Engines for use in Military & Civilian Aircraft so they have a huge investment in our present fossil fuel based economy and large Military Forces being deployed around the world to protect American "Interests". He stated that GE welcomes regulations from governments to control their operations (I almost gagged) and almost felt like Mic Checking the fact that in 2010 GE made \$400 Million dollars in America and paid ZERO tax on it! not only that they also got a \$3.2 Billion Tax Refund from the Government that year! I sensed a slight tremble in his voice, I think he felt a somewhat hostile audience and Sam Mclean from Getup did have a dig at him toward the end of the talk.

Marc Ahrens from Occupy Sydney made the point that there are deeper issues not being addressed here and that making money should not be the primary or one of the major motivators for a healthy and sane society, Adam Spencer made

the point that these questions could not be answered in a 90 minutes forum which is totally correct, this is one of the major goals of Occupy to create and maintain a space for conversation and debate about how a sustainable and sane society might function in a world where resources are going to have to go further and environmental damage has to be reversed, among many other un-addressed issues which the mainstream seems unwilling or incapable of bringing to light.

I think this night highlighted one issue we in Occupy Australia haven't really discussed and will need to address if we really want to represent the 99%. How do we as a movement reach out to the Middle Classes ? Issues such as high rents & mortgages are good starting points but in my experience many of the middle class feel that generally capitalism works and despite its flaws which many of them are aware of they still generally believe in it.

It's all they have known for all their lives and they still believe they can join the ranks of the 1% and live like they do (or at least close to it) To be told you have to live on less is not popular but if it's made in the context of eco-systems on the verge of collapse at least some will accept it, the rest will be forced to after the collapse comes and everyone has to adapt.

Apart from Paul and Clover no one else on the panel got to speak alone for 20 minutes, also no question time was given to the audience which further reinforces the one-way top-down nature of this City Talk, also no one from the general public was allowed to sit in the front four rows as these seats were all reserved for the Sydney City County Council, another example of the Elitist nature of this forum.

At the end we had a feel good Choir sing Gospel and tried to get the audience involved, I felt like we were in some Mid Western American Mega Church! I managed to avoid walking out until almost the end of that Cringe worthy spectacle.

After the Talk some Occupiers gathered in the side street next to City Recital Hall and had a Free School on subjects such as Homelessness & Radical Sustainability, also a Report Back was heard from Marc.

We Are The Many

From <http://revolutionaryfrontlines.wordpress.com/2011/11/15/makana-hawaiian-singeractivist-took-occupy-song-we-are-the-many-to-obama/> (includes youtube link to filmclip)

Lyrics and Music by Makana

Makana Music LLC © 2011

Ye come here, gather 'round the stage
The time has come for us to voice our rage
Against the ones who've trapped us in a cage
To steal from us the value of our wage

From underneath the vestiture of law
The lobbyists at Washington do gnaw
At liberty, the bureaucrats guffaw
And until they are purged, we won't withdraw

We'll occupy the streets
We'll occupy the courts
We'll occupy the offices of you
Till you do

The bidding of the many, not the few

Our nation was built upon the right
Of every person to improve their plight
But laws of this Republic they rewrite
And now a few own everything in sight

They own it free of liability
They own, but they are not like you and me
Their influence dictates legality
And until they are stopped we are not free

We'll occupy the streets
We'll occupy the courts
We'll occupy the offices of you
Till you do

The bidding of the many, not the few

You enforce your monopolies with guns
While sacrificing our daughters and sons
But certain things belong to everyone
Your thievery has left the people none

So take heed of our notice to redress
We have little to lose, we must confess
Your empty words do leave us unimpressed
A growing number join us in protest

We occupy the streets
We occupy the courts
We occupy the offices of you
Till you do

The bidding of the many, not the few

You can't divide us into sides
And from our gaze, you cannot hide
Denial serves to amplify
And our allegiance you can't buy

Our government is not for sale
The banks do not deserve a bail
We will not reward those who fail
We will not move till we prevail

We'll occupy the streets
We'll occupy the courts
We'll occupy the offices of you
Till you do

The bidding of the many, not the few

We'll occupy the streets
We'll occupy the courts
We'll occupy the offices of you
Till you do

The bidding of the many, not the few

We are the many
You are the few



Photo from a friend of a friend at Occupy Wall Street

Meditating at a riot

by Pathi

"Can you visualise a riot in order to meditate?" My friend Gemma asked. I paused and thought of a response. Meditation is normally not so vocal. "And why would you visualise that?" We both smiled and shifted postures and tried to understand why a riot is any use at all. David, who sat looking out the window, observed, "a riot can be very cathartic!" It was like a gong had rung but it might have been Gemma because I looked her funnily as she quizzed, "and what does cathartic mean?"

Catharsis is a purging of emotion. On the stage, it's the act of experiencing heightened emotion. Once we experience emotion cathartically, it's thought, that emotion leaves us. Or at the least, that emotion isn't the same for us anymore, and while we may not have reached a resolution about the emotion and its meanings, we may well find we see ourselves differently. It's something to build upon: this is all too powerful.

Gemma smiled off into the distance and I thought for a moment there was something out the window because both David and her were gazing. I looked along with them and it seemed we'd forgotten what we were talking about and what we were doing. But of course, then Gemma closed her eyes and David and I watched her. "What are you doing?" We asked. "I'm trying to find myself a riot."

Riots are touchy subjects. There's confrontation and emotion and while you could get over what happens to the odd material object, you never quite know how you'll feel about what you do and how you do it. You don't know if you'll find any control in a riot. And if you do find control, you don't really know if everybody else has it. But then, perhaps I'm missing the point. Maybe it's not about control.

I give Gemma a jab. She opens her eyes and gives me a jab. I'm almost sure she was at least near a riot. "Any luck?" She nods and then adds, "I felt lost for a moment. I got to a point where I didn't know anymore. But it was right. Being with those people was right. It wasn't like TV." Gemma's weird, I think; No riot could be like TV. I frowned and impulsively concluded: meditation doesn't seem so combative. Yet any self possession is resistive, so why can't meditation be part of revolutionary social theatre?

Visualising an image is to give all your energies to that image. It's to show to yourself that right now, right here, this is important and only this. But we don't leave the world behind and we don't have to ignore the world while we meditate. It might be very radical, but why not send those who meditate to the front line to stir up some action? They'd definitely qualify as visionaries, though obviously of a different nature.

I felt that Gemma had stirred a note that wouldn't go away. As the faintest

sounds that linger on for much longer than you're ever willing to admit, I thought about riots and thought it too could help anybody become a better person, a better revolutionary. So I decided to sit down and meditate. The task was to visualise a riot and allow my emotions to synthesise in them. These are the words which led me to glory:

Photo Submitted by Bern Ellis



There's a crowd of people jostling. Can you feel it heaving? They touch your shoulders. You're hugging; linking arms. There are many colours and different types of clothing. You see all your favourite ones. You're eyes focus onto a sign somewhere before you. You look at the hands and the way they grip the sign. What's written? Repeat the messages to yourself by reading them over? Are you reading them?

Something rises into the air. What is it? Does it move in a particular direction? There are many emotions arising. It's exciting.

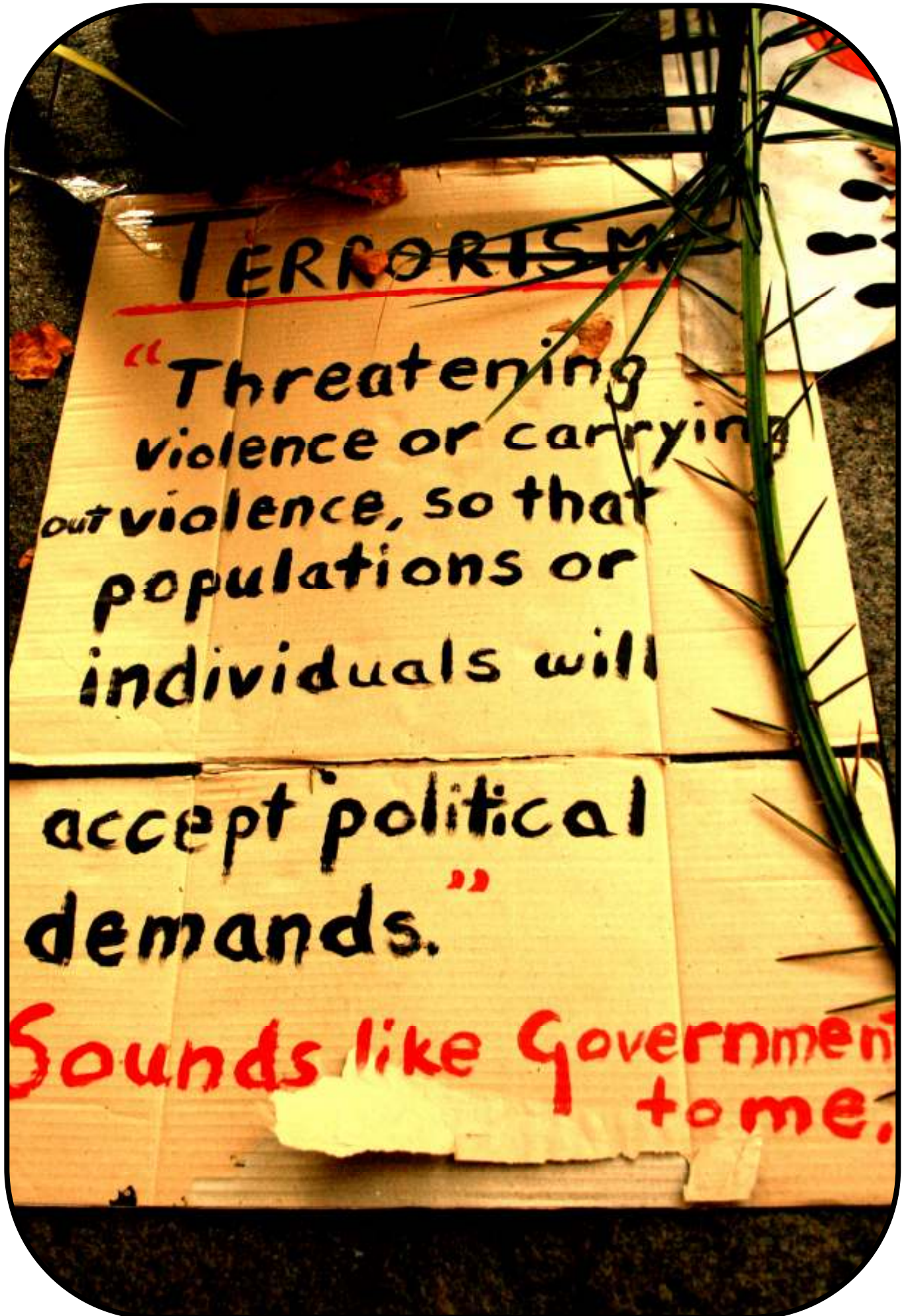
You walk towards the centre of it. You feel yourself sway in and out of the crowd, feeling your shoulders move side to side, then your hips. Your walking and moving is absorbing but then it stops. Ahead, you hear a sound.

The sound is of a horn. It comes from some blurry point in front of you and flies past. You catch it in one ear. Which ear? In the opposite ear you hear somebody repeating a slogan. You know it because you've heard it often. You can feel your lips moving and you know you're repeating it.

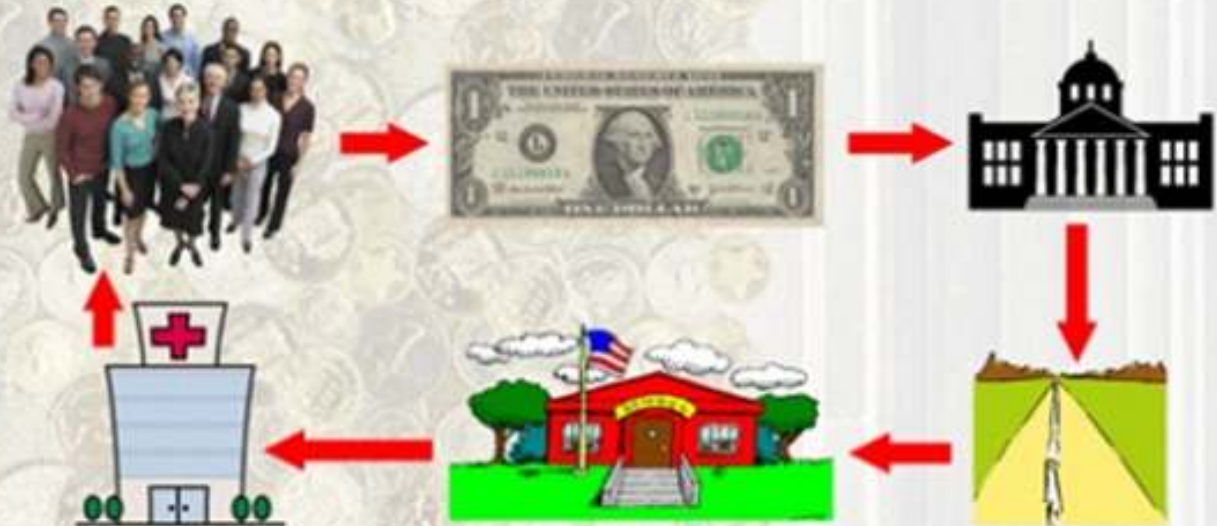
But a moment has come when the air becomes thicker. You know this had to happen. It is like smoke or something oppressive that you would have felt. A blanket, a chain, an order. People are moving and you feel disorientated as though you've spun around like a child. The road is empty now. Before you there is an empty car moving onto the centre of the road. The roof is on flames. The flames are absorbing. You only watch them. Slowly everything else blackens out and your eyes feel the pressure. These are tears. It may be the smoke or it may be the flames but they're on your face. Still, you look at the flames. People in uniform come to push the car away. They have a hose and they extinguish the flame. But you hold onto the flame. Because you're there. The car's moving away. You don't need it anymore: you're right there looking at the flames.



"I'm just hoping we can keep this whole thing under control after the police find out we're stealing their pensions!"

Photo from singsforchange.tumblr.com by Bern Ellis

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TAXPAYER AND A SLAVE



TAXPAYERS GIVE HALF THEIR MONEY TO THE GOVERNMENT. WHICH IN RETURN USES THAT MONEY TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN ROADS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SERVES THE TAXPAYERS.



SLAVES GIVE HALF THEIR MONEY TO THE GOVERNMENT WHICH GIVES IT TO BANKERS. ROADS, SCHOOLS, AND HOSPITALS ARE ALLOWED TO FALL INTO RUIN.

A List of Australian Taxes:

Accounts Receivable Tax	Luxury Taxes
Airline surcharge tax	Marriage License Tax
Airline Fuel Tax	Medicare Tax
Airport Maintenance Tax	Mortgage Tax
Building Permit Tax	Personal Income Tax
Capital Gains Tax	Property Tax
Cigarette Tax	Poverty Tax
Corporate Income Tax	Prescription Drug Tax
Goods and Services Tax (GST)	Real Estate Tax
Death Tax	Vehicle Tax
Dog License Tax	Retail Sales Tax
Driving Permit Tax	Service Charge Tax
Environmental Tax (Fee)	School Tax
Excise Taxes	Vehicle License Registration
Federal Income Tax	Tax
Fishing License Tax	Vehicle Sales Tax
Petrol Tax	Water Tax
Health Tax	Watercraft Registration Tax
Hunting License Tax	Well Permit Tax
Income Tax	Workers Compensation Tax
Interest Tax	And Now Thanks to Julia
Liquor Tax	Gillard – A Carbon Tax !

coles

**Bringing Australia
Down, Down**



Submitted by Nicky

Lyrics sung to the tune of 'I Still Call Australia Home'

I know of cities
corrupt to the bone
From New York to Rome
And old London town
But no matter how far
They think they can go
It's time for the truth to
be known

You ask why I protest:
Well I love being free,
It's for all of the people,
for the land and the sea.
There are those who want
To control it all
So Occupy all round the
world

All the sons and
daughters
All around the world
Along with their families
And friends

Tired of being exploited
Yet as we learn more
It's good to know that
We'll win in the end

Someday we'll all
Come together once more
When all of the truths
Have come to be known
That the world can be
better

I've always known
So Occupy all round the
world

Cos no matter how far
They think they can go
It's time for the truth
It's time for the truth
It's time for the truth to
be known

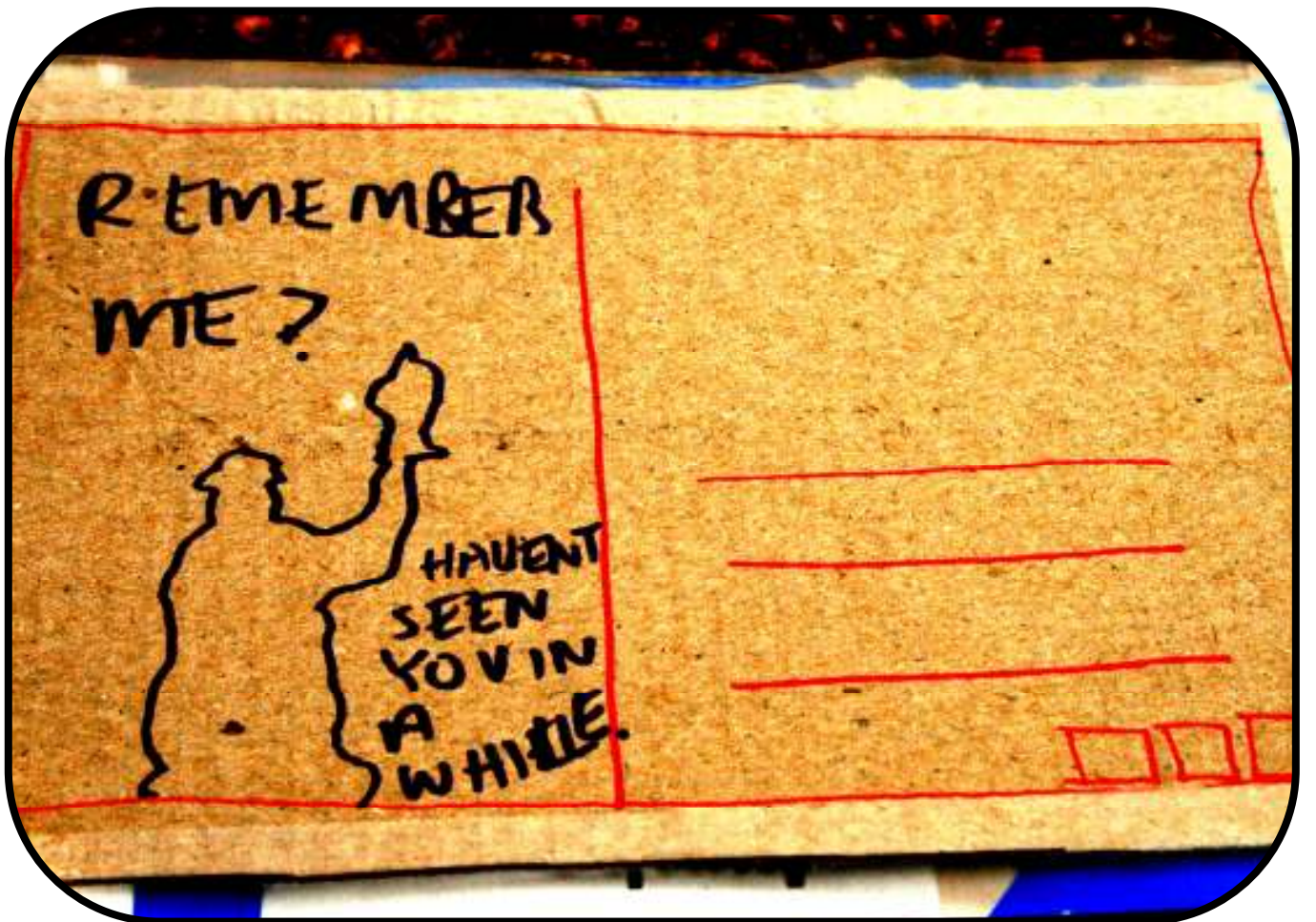


Re|**LOVE**|ution-

(n): 1. A movement/idea/revolution starting with YOU and spreading everywhere.

2. A chain reaction; spreading love around our community.

(v): Taking action and making a difference; changing the way we treat each other.



Occupy the Screen

May 12, 7pm at Martin Place, Sydney

Join us on May 12 to celebrate the work of local filmmakers who have produced documentaries about global movements for change. Come to Occupy Sydney at Martin Place for an open air, solar-powered screening of independent films featuring short films "We are the 99%" by Shabnam Hameed, "Bin Wars" by Huck and feature film "Strategies of Struggle from Below" by Frank Knarf. Food Not Bombs will be serving dinner by donation. Film cost - free or by donation. BYO cushion or blanket.

We are the 99% is about (extra)ordinary working people who struggle to change the system in the wake of the global financial crisis. Filmed in New York, the short film interviews people involved in Occupy Wall Street and reflects on the role of the occupation in the broader context of the Occupy movement. (Trailer - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un3v6qbZw9o>)

Strategies of Struggle from below is an experimental documentary exploring diverse forms of social organisation in different regions in the beautiful, unique but complex country of Colombia. Street art, technology, education, direct action and international solidarity are some of the tools used by artists, students, indigenous groups, unions and other social grassroots organisations to challenge the dominant social relations of neoliberal policy – lowering of working conditions, generalised repression, impunity individualism and competition.

fb - Occupy the Screen

<https://www.facebook.com/thecardshow#!/events/218769331565397/>

From an Email by Else to Occupy2Organise

May 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 GENERAL STRIKE No Work, School, Shopping, Banking, Housework!	2 6.30pm GA MP	3	4 Occupy Friday's & Movie Night	5 Occupy Parramatta 5.30pm GA MP	6
7 6.30pm GA MP	8	9 6.30pm GA MP	10	11 Occupy Friday's & Movie Night	12 GLOBAL OCCUPY Occupy Parramatta Free School MP 5.30pm GA MP	13 <--- Also 7 pm 12th OCCUPY the SCREEN
14 6.30pm GA MP	15	16 6.30pm GA MP	17	18 Occupy Friday's & Movie Night	19 Occupy Parramatta 5.30pm GA MP	20
21 6.30pm GA MP	22	23 6.30pm GA MP	24	25 Occupy Friday's & Movie Night	26 Occupy Parramatta Free School MP 5.30pm GA MP	27
28 6.30pm GA MP	29	30 Occupy the Courts 6.30pm GA MP	31			

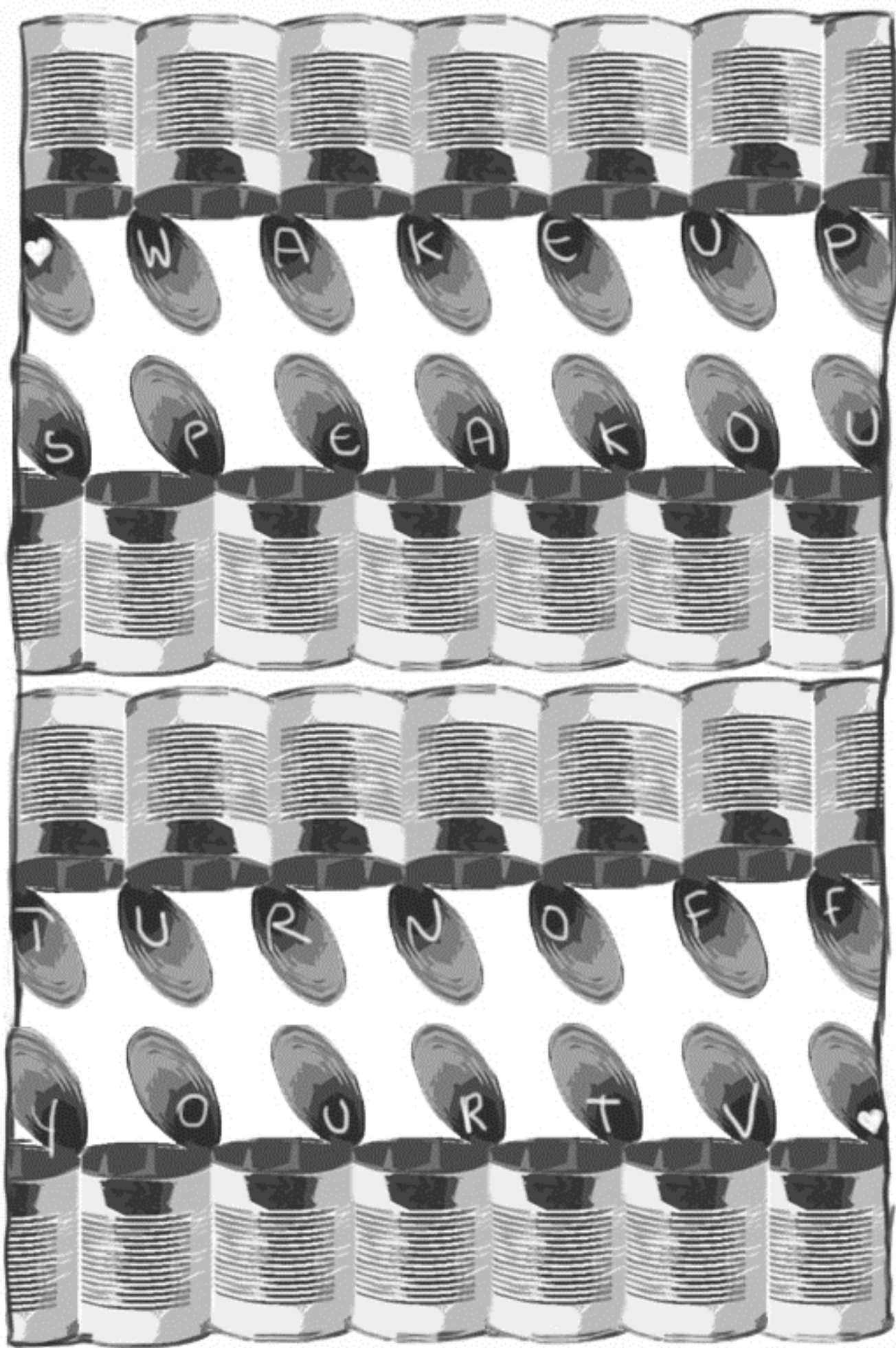


Image by Maloë Cadic